

# **SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on August 16, 2006, in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

#### **The following were in attendance:**

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President  
Michael B. DeLuise - Treasurer  
David D'Orazio - Secretary  
Maria Figalora - Trustee  
Carl Luecke - Trustee  
William Macchione - Trustee  
Gretchen Oldrin-Mones - Trustee  
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee  
Matthew W. Swinson - Trustee  
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director  
Florence Ogg - Staff  
Bill Dieck - Staff  
Lorraine Schiano-Vernola - Staff  
Maryann Zakshevsky - Staff  
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

**Absent:**

Daniel Olivieri - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Marjorie Kossoy-Fuhrmann - Trustee  
Howard Kleinberg - Trustee  
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Trustee

**Excused Absence:**

Susan LeBow - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Ronald Parr - Trustee

**(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.)**

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

We welcome you to the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees meeting. Do we have a list of guests in attendance?

**MS. PASTORE:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

David, can I get a motion for the approval of the minutes?

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

Yes, after reviewing the minutes from the last meeting, there doesn't seem to be any corrections that need to be made. I'll make a motion to approve the minutes as written.

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? (**Vote: 9/0/0/6**

**Absent: Mr. Olivieri, Ms. LeBow, Dr. Pecorale, Mr.**

**Kleinberg, Ms. Fuhrmann & Mr. Parr.)** Do we have a Public Relations Report?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Todd couldn't be here this evening, but we do have a tape to show tonight. While we're waiting for Lorraine to set up the VCR, I will say that Todd and I have been working for the past several weeks trying to work out a project with the Village of Southampton to have a Vanderbilt event. We have been trying to build a base in the Hamptons – oh, here we go with the tape.

**(Video Presentation 7:20 – 7:30 p.m.)**

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

That was wonderful.

**MS. OLDRIN-MONES:**

They packed in a lot of material. What I especially liked is how well our excellent staff members come across, so knowledgeable, so caring and positive. It's just incredible. Not only did we see our programs and exhibits there but it was just wonderful.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

And the public who they interviewed also, they really seemed to understand what we were all about.

**MR. SWINSON:**

No question about it. There was quite a bit of enthusiasm that was delivered in what they had to share about the museum. If I was a parent – well, I'm a parent now, but I would definitely be sold on it.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Well, Laura is becoming a good friend.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

And that's been playing several times over the summer. I hope it will be on a few more times as well. Just to finish up my earlier comments, we have been trying for some time to expand our zone of influence across Suffolk County. Todd and I had been working with the Village of Southampton to develop a Vanderbilt Cup car event that might take place on the east end. This culminated last Friday. We had a meeting with the Mayor of Southampton who was very enthusiastic about doing something next year, which would be part of a fundraiser for the museum. Hopefully this will grow into something bigger in the future. I'll be letting you know our progress on that.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Wonderful. Thank you. You did quite well yourself. You're getting quite comfortable on the screen.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I got all the dates right. After what she said -- I never had anybody get so much stuff in three minutes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Bill, Buildings and Grounds.

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

Okay, in Buildings and Grounds, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning are underway in the powerhouse in the Educational Center, as far as duct work and the actual AC units. Also in the Educational Center, the handicapped accessible bathrooms are underway.

Cornell is working on the Cablevision internet for the entire powerhouse, cottage and planetarium. That's actually underway right now. They're working right outside the building.

Also there was a scaffold built to allow access to the courtyard from the main entrance at the bell tower due to some ideas that the façade is in poor condition, and we didn't want anything happening to any of our guests coming in and out. We wanted to keep that entrance open at all times. That's been going on great.

I also want to commend Bill Dieck and his team of one during the week. He cuts 42 acres of grass. They see to setting up chairs and tables for weddings, besides covering anything that might go wrong on the premises here and throughout the estate. He is definitely an asset that we could be proud of. Thank you, Bill.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you, Bill. Anything else to add?

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

No, that's the end of my report.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you very much. Education and Exhibits.

**MS. OLDRIN-MONES:**

I'd like to start with Florence, who you will recognize was here at the last meeting. She talked about accessioning some books. The first paper you have in your packet is a list of those books, just to refresh your memory. Florence is here in case you have questions about those books. She didn't bring one of those books the last time but she has it with her this time, as she does all the other books. If there are any questions that you have, she would be happy to answer, I hope.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Do the Trustees have any questions regarding the accessions that we are about to consider?

**MS. OLDRIN-MONES:**

If not, then I'd like to make a motion to accession these books.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

You have a list before you. We'll amend the list to the minutes. May I have a second?

**MR. DELUISE:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? (**Vote: 9/0/0/6**  
**Absent: Mr. Olivieri, Ms. LeBow, Dr. Pecorale, Mr. Kleinberg, Ms. Fuhrmann & Mr. Parr.**) All items are accessioned as requested.

**MS. OLDRIN-MONES:**

Thank you.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you for the diligence that you approach these things with.

**MS. OLDRIN-MONES:**

The Education Department is transitioning from successful summer session and preparing for an exciting new school year. The 2006/07 school brochure is at the printers. In it are several changes, such as descriptions of our new courses, mention of the availability of Subway, suggestions regarding items in the gift shop and their classroom application. You should all soon receive in the mail a copy of this brochure. The fall workshop program flyer is available. You will find a copy in your handouts.

To improve our reservation and cancellation policy and to make it fairer and more predictable and even more profitable, a new confirmation letter has been designed. The alternate language brochures are being printed and notice of their availability will be posted soon. The committee continues to research the antenna audio program.

In the planetarium Dave has almost completed work on his Halloween show called, "Haunted Skies." When Dave wanted Ken Grimball's voice to be the voice in the program, Stephanie was able to make that happen. I'm sure "Haunted Skies" will be a big hit during the upcoming Fall Feast and the Halloween weekend.

Dave was contacted by Kevin McPherson from Warner Brothers

to do an evening of the laser show with a new band called the “Mews.” We’ll get much free quality advertising on WABA as Warner Brothers promotes this event, which will take place on the weekend of September 23.

Our planetarium is highlighted in a new seasonable web page of MAPS called “Starlight On.” MAPS stands for Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society. If you’re interested, their web site is [WWW.MAPS-PLANETARIUM.ORG](http://WWW.MAPS-PLANETARIUM.ORG). If you go there, you will see lots of pictures of the planetarium and of image cycling, which is a unique and a very popular use of our domed facility.

There’s lots of dinosaur activity both in and outside the museum. Beth has added a craft project to both dinosaur programs, so now for a cost of \$3, students can create a dino-rama. Staff has been asked to do a dinosaur program at the Northport Library on October 23 and will even be paid \$9 a head for their efforts. Numerous items have been loaned to the library for this exhibit.

Members of our Education staff will be at the William Floyd Elementary School for Museum Day on September 22.

The Cornell educators are happy with their laundry room classrooms and will continue there in the fall. Jackie and Eric are considering developing a two-hour nature trail/beach course with Eric doing the land part and Jackie doing the marine portion.

Florence has been busy in the archives filling requests for materials and doing her own research. Images of Vanderbilt’s yacht Eagle and information and images of Vanderbilt’s former estate were requested for two projects relating to Fisher’s



Island, one of which will appear in an article in Florida "Inside and Out."

An associate professor of architecture at Cal Poly Tech has requested information on Eagles Nest for a book being written on mansions in the Mediterranean style.

Another professor, this one from Indiana, visited the archives to research material for a book on the Vanderbilt family. Islamic art is popular right now, and Florence is researching a painting from our collection that could become part of a future exhibit.

The 1905 Vanderbilt Cup race photo exhibit has opened in the turntable gallery. In your packet you have photos of that race. These are photos that we own. Some of them are quite unique, for instance, the one that shows Consuelo and Willie together. The last thing in your packet that you have are thank you notes, lovely thank you notes that were received by both Stephanie and Florence for their work with the Girl Scouts and the new program that they wrote. We also have another thank you note for Florence from an intern that she has. They are very enjoyable to read. That is the end of the Education and Exhibits Report.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Very good. Any questions? Thank you for that report. David, did I skip over you? I just wanted to give you time to get ready. My apologies. Go ahead, David.

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

In Development, basically, this month we've been really concentrating on the "Evening at El Morocco." In July we set

down all the basics, the ticket price, date, location, and procured the orchestra to do the cocktail hour in the courtyard. We have also secured Event Pros Group to do the design and decoration of the gala this year. Steven and Terry, the principals there at Event Pros, really came in with some fantastic ideas. I think it's going to make this a very special event this year. They are also donating several interesting items to the event as part of their gift to the Vanderbilt. We'll have more details on that when we get our agreement with them finished.

In addition to that, we went over all the types of entertainment that will be there with Event Pros. They're supplying a magician to walk around during the event and do slight of hand. We'll have a fortuneteller booth set up where people can actually have their fortunes told. They set up and fill in a specific time. There will be a whole lot of other things that we don't want to talk about because they're secret. The VIP room will be the secret room, so we really can't disclose that at this point. We have some fantastic items donated for the raffles. It looks like Matt will be able to procure a football signed by one or more Jets. In addition to that Rafael Vineyards has given us a verbal agreement that they're going to present wine in the courtyard for the evening. I thought that was great. They're also going to supply a basket. We have several jewelry items already given to us, as well as salon baskets and gift certificates.

I believe by the end of this week we should have quite a few more items, because we had Todd Shapiro's office working on procuring some items for the raffles. We're moving along quite well. We have an ad going on in the *Long Island Post* magazine, a full page ad and some of the locals also. We will be putting some blurbs on the internet and on our website. The invitations are in print as we speak. They should be going out hopefully

next week. I don't see any reason why they shouldn't be because we're pretty much moving along pretty well at this point. I believe Lance has already gotten all the labels printed and ready to go.

What I will ask, and I will be sending some information out to each and every Trustee, is that at this point, once we have the invitations printed, I'm going to ask everybody to go out there and push to sell tickets and possibly get whatever sponsorships you can for the event, whether it comes in the form of \$1,000 sponsorship or up to \$15,000. Whatever we can get helps.

We will send you that information probably as early as tomorrow as far as an email format so that you know what you're looking at and what you can pass along, as far as the sponsorship letter, the advertising, and the information on the event. This way we can pass that along to people and our contacts that we know.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I have some brochures here tonight if anyone wants to take one or several.

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

So far it looks very good. We'll be setting up another committee meeting on this for next week. I will send this out in an email tomorrow also or fax it out to those of you who don't have email. We're moving along pretty well. I'm pretty happy with the progress.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Any questions? Comments? That sounds like a really good report. Thank you. Finance, Michael.

**MR. DELUISE:**

You'll notice in your packet there is no Treasurer's Report. We did not have electricity at the museum for about ten days, including some weekends.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Yes.

**MR. DELUISE:**

So without electricity it was very hard to get the numbers together. Once the electricity came back -- you'll notice it's on now and the air conditioning is working now, but our accountant, Michael, from our accounting firm is on vacation.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

We'll have May and June's report out by the next meeting.

**MR. DELUISE:**

So you'll have that, and then we can discuss it at the next meeting. We also recently received a letter. We had talked about our auditing and our continuance of using the accounting firm. We got a letter from Lambrides addressing our concerns and their capabilities. They've responded. In talking to Lance, they feel, and I think Lance agrees with this, that they can meet our needs, that they have been responsive to what we want. Our suggestion in the Finance Committee is that we retain them again for this year to do the 2005 audit and the income tax return and again just continue to evaluate them to make sure that they're doing the job that we need and look at that as we go along for the future.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Carl.

**MR. LUECKE:**

We already talked about that at the last meeting.

**MR. DELUISE:**

We did, and we're doing that. We were going to send out an RFP. We voted on that at the last meeting.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Right. Did we send out an RFP?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

No, to be very honest with you, I haven't even had the opportunity to prepare the RFP, which is part of the reason why I talked to Lambrides to address some of the issues that we had. When I get into my report – it's been a very rough summer here. I have not been able to do that. I am concerned that even if we had that ready by today, we're really under tremendous pressure to get this report out as soon as possible. I have had requests from –

**MR. LUECKE:**

As I remember, we discussed several things and voted on them. One, we voted on sending out an RFP for 2005. Two, we said that we would find out whether or not the current firm would stay for another year and if they would be interested in the RFP. We agreed that it's too late to change horses. It was probably too late last time, even though we voted to do it. Now it's even later, but I think sending out an RFP for 2006, we shouldn't wait until we're halfway through next year to do it.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Yes. In fact, we talked about that in the committee earlier, that

the recommendation would be – I think the issues have been addressed here, but I think it still warrants monitoring to be sure that we're satisfied and that we have noted the improvements that they feel they are capable of making and to implement those as soon as possible in the new year to have the 2006 audit, if we decide to go that route.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Since we had a motion to put it out to bid, maybe we should have a motion to accept them as the auditor for 2005.

**MR. DELUISE:**

I would like to suggest a motion that we accept the auditor for 2005.

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I have a second. Any discussion?

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

I think at this point the best way to tie it up would be a motion to forego the RFP for 2005, but that's what the motion was.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

That's what this motion is.

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

Let's make a motion to forego and suspend the RFP for 2005 and to use this firm for 2005, and we'll leave it open for 2006 for discussion.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Will you accept that change?

**MR. DELUISE:**

So we're not voting now on an RFP for 2006.

**DR. ROGERS:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Question. Does that mean that you're not going to solicit or send out RFP's for 2006?

**MR. DELUISE:**

I think that will be a separate motion.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I need a second on the modification.

**DR. ROGERS:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I have a second on the modification now. Do you want to discuss it or are you prepared to vote? All in favor? Opposed? It passes unanimously. (**Vote: 9/0/0/6 Absent: Mr. Olivieri, Ms. LeBow, Dr. Pecorale, Mr. Kleinberg, Ms. Fuhrmann & Mr. Parr.**)

**MR. DELUISE:**

Now I'll make another motion to send out an RFP for the 2006 audit and income tax return.



**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I have a motion to send out an RFP for the audit for 2006. Do I have a second?

**MS. OLDRIN-MONES:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Discussion? I would like to make one point of discussion. I don't want to set us up for disappointment because I know what Lance's calendar is like over the next two months, especially given that we have a major event coming. What I would ask is that that RFP does not have to go out in the next 30 days. It can go out before the next meeting which will be 60 days from now. Would that be acceptable?

**MR. DELUISE:**

I agree.

**DR. ROGERS:**

Who solicits the firms that the RFP's are to be sent to?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

The Finance Committee. Is there further discussion? Given that there's no further discussion, all in favor? Opposed?

Abstentions? It passes unanimously. (**Vote: 9/0/0/6**

**Absent: Mr. Olivieri, Ms. LeBow, Dr. Pecorale, Mr. Kleinberg, Ms. Fuhrmann & Mr. Parr.)**

**MR. DELUISE:**

Lance, do you have anything else to add to the Finance Report?



**MR. MALLAMO:**

No.

**MR. DELUISE:**

Then that's the end of my report.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I'm sorry, maybe just if we could bring up the issue of the signers for transfers between accounts.

**MR. DELUISE:**

One of the problems that we have in doing business is that right now we had a system that we need two signatures for transferring our accounts. If I understand it right, both Vanderbilt accounts are in two different places and if you move it back and forth, you need two signatures.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Right, so you'll understand, we have four accounts in the Chase Bank in Northport. We have the money market, a checking, a payroll and a merchant account for credit card transactions. Our former business manager, Barbara Oster, was authorized to execute the transfers with just her signature. When Barbara retired and I went to do the transfers, I was told I wasn't authorized to do that. I needed two signatures. I think I ran down to East Islip and got our Board President to quickly sign that, enabling us to transfer the money to meet payroll. Since that has occurred, I have brought the museum into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and we are now able to bank online for the first time, but I cannot execute transfers online. I have to do it manually and get a second signature each time, which makes it very

difficult to execute transfers in a timely manner. Right now we do it by fax, which is quite time consuming. If the fax lines are busy, as they often are, these transfers have to be done by 3 p.m. If I start trying the fax after 1 p.m., chances are the line is going to be busy and the transfer may or may not occur on the day I need it done. I'm requesting that I be authorized to execute the transfer. This is just between Vanderbilt accounts.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

But the first question I would ask would be are all four of these accounts double signature accounts?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I believe so, yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

So there is no way – and you'll have to excuse me but –

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Actually the transfer cards need to be updated anyway. We found they haven't been updated since 2004.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

The problem is and what I'm suggesting in my comment is that if one person can transfer, they're transferring funds between one of our accounts to another one of our accounts, but they cannot withdraw the funds without a second signature.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Absolutely.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

So there is no window – we have to maintain proper controls.

Transferring money among accounts with a single signature – if there was any way that one signature could access the funds, then I would be against it completely.

**MR. DELUISE:**

We're just moving it amongst our accounts.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

This is not withdrawing money. This is just transferring within –

**MR. LUECKE:**

Which accounts are these?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Our daily deposits go into our money market account. Then as we meet payroll, the day before typically we'll transfer the money to make payroll or when we pay vendors, we'll transfer it to the checking account.

**DR. ROGERS:**

What are the signatures on the different accounts?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Well, it would be the Director and the Executive Committee. So that would require two signatures, but previously Barbara Oster was authorized. I guess this dates back many, many years before I even started here to execute the transfers on her own. She was the business manager, so she was authorized to do that. I wasn't even aware that I wasn't until –

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Irrespective whether Barbara was allowed, I think we have to make an independent decision as to whether we are comfortable

with the practice. This has nothing to do with Lance in the sense that we're not looking at Lance's integrity. We're looking at what our proper controls are. My guess is that as long as the funds cannot be accessed by the party making the transfers, then he can collect all the money in one account but he can't access the funds.

**DR. ROGERS:**

Who makes the decision where the money is to be used?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

A check is written theoretically, so the Treasurer becomes involved. As we're spending money, we have a payable come in or we have a payroll to meet. That's normal course of business, and checks get issued and funds have to be transferred into the account in which the checks are being drawn.

**DR. ROGERS:**

The question is, who makes the decision where the funds have to be taken from and transferred to?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I do, but I review that with the Treasurer.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

It's the Director and Treasurer.

**DR. ROGERS:**

Therefore, the responsibility for transferring funds rests with you and the Treasurer. So either one of you or both of you or each one of you independently should have the right to transfer it.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

So you're saying it could be either or – the Treasurer or Director.

**DR. ROGERS:**

You're keeping it in line with now who has the authority to do certain things at the present time.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Do you want to make a motion to that effect?

**MR. LUECKE:**

Let's discuss that. The Treasurer doesn't get actively involved in terms of other than, "This is the correct check. I will sign it and send it out." The Treasurer does not get actively involved in moving the account from the money market to the checking account – never to my knowledge.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

If the Executive Director is out of town –

**MR. LUECKE:**

We are going to have a person to replace Barbara at some time. That would be the person who should do that, the person who is actually doing the checks.

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

Or we revert to two signatures. Two signatures of the Executive Committee wouldn't move the money quicker?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

That's fine with me. I just want to have a mechanism in the absence of the Executive Director. That's why when it was

mentioned that the Treasurer –

**MR. DELUISE:**

Lance, as the Director, could be the single signatory, and if there was another reason, maybe two of the Board Members of the Executive Committee –

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Yes, of the Executive Committee. Be prepared to sign a whole bunch of signature cards.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Which you have to do every year anyway.

**DR. ROGERS:**

But the person that transfers the funds has to know where the funds are so he can take the funds and switch them from one account to another. So he should be cognizant of the cash flow there. Not just to say he has money in payroll and he going to take it out of the money market. Maybe there's no money in the money market.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

By banking online, Bill, I have a daily – no, I have an hourly record.

**DR. ROGERS:**

The person that makes the transfer has to be very knowledgeable with what goes on with the accounts.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Do we have an understanding here? It's the Director and Treasurer. Or is it the Director and two members of the

Executive Committee.

**MR. DELUISE:**

The Director or two members of the Executive Board, right?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

That's fine with me. Can I have a motion?

**MR. DELUISE:**

Motion.

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

I'll second it.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Further discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It passes unanimously. **(Vote: 9/0/0/6 Absent: Mr. Olivieri, Ms. LeBow, Dr. Pecorale, Mr. Kleinberg, Ms. Fuhrmann & Mr. Parr.)**

Can you have signature cards prepared? Are there any other points in your Finance Report?

**MR. DELUISE:**

No. Thank you, sir.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you. Director's Report.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I'm pleased to announce we have a new corporate sponsor. Arrow Electronics will be taking out a patron's sponsorship to the



museum. Further, we have had several meetings with Arrow executives here at the museum, and they have taken a complete tour. They have asked us to prepare a proposal to create or supplement an exhibit on the property, which they would also like to sponsor, so we're working on doing that right now with staff. We'll be pleased to welcome them to the gala this year. We're going to have a special day in the fall for Arrow to salute them. We're very pleased with that new relationship.

Also, you may have noticed the temporary Subway food service unit is here in the lobby because we were able to get a permanent food service permit for the planetarium. So we're going to go on developing the areas behind the gift shop for a permanent café back there. We have been able to do that without any major modifications that previously we believed were necessary to accomplish that in this building, so for the time being Subway will be here until we formalize that relationship and get working on that space. We're delighted, and I know our guests are really pleased to have a full service lunch facility. That will be expanded in the new area as well with other offerings.

I remarked earlier that it's been a very difficult summer here, and I have to salute every member of the staff for making it happen in lieu of overwhelming odds this summer. We have had significant electrical power outage issues, to the point where the Long Island Power Authority finally purchased a generator to maintain museum operations when our power was going out repeatedly day after day, and they have executed significant upgrades to the entire Little Neck peninsula by relocating the electrical transformers and installing new transformers where there weren't before. Hopefully our electrical issues are a thing of the past. We are cautiously optimistic for that.



Not just losing the power but in losing the power we have had burn-outs of air conditioning systems and of our alarm system. We have had to close down one weekend because the alarms were not functioning properly. It has really wreaked havoc with the computers on the property. It's been a very, very difficult summer, but I think we have everything back operating. We did put a new air conditioning system in this building about six weeks ago, and that had to be replaced again when it burned out during the power surges and in starting the power again. I hope we've addressed that and that that was covered by the warranty of that system.

Also Bill talked about the issues with the bell tower façade. We needed to build a safety scaffold. We were very concerned that by putting a traditional metal and plank scaffold it would impact our rental site use of the courtyard and the visual impact at the courtyard door for the museum guests. So the grounds crew and I built a decorative scaffolding that I am very pleased with. I think it came out very nicely. I described to DPW what we were interested in. When the architect came down with the drawing, he was surprised to see we had actually built exactly what he had drawn. They were very pleased as well. We got it done within a four-day period at very minor expense to the museum. I'm pleased with that, but as I said, Carl, it's been a real – in my nine years here, this is probably the toughest summer we've ever had. You can imagine what it's like to have no power and a museum filled with guests, people in the theater, educational programs running, and now you actually have to do a small-scale evacuation of the property day after day. It wasn't pleasant. My hats are off to everyone who contributed and made that happen. That's my report.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Any comments or questions? I thought tonight I would do something a little different. I thought I would tell you some stories about Willie. I found out as I was reading an article in 1923 that Willie gave a donation to the Long Island Biological Society. I didn't know what that was. Have you ever heard of it?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

No.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Well, you have. It's called Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories. Willie was the founding contributor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories. He made the first contribution, and it's just gotten buried in history. He actually gave enough money to build their first building.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Wow.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I thought that was a pretty good story. The other fellow that I happened to research, and I don't know if you've had an opportunity to, but it was Mr. Fisher. Have you found out about him?

**MS. OGG:**

Carl Fisher?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Yes. I was researching out Carl Fisher because I'm at that point

in the book where I have to put down Willie's three homes. One of them was Carl Fisher. So I found out that Carl Fisher made his money by buying some useless land called Miami Beach. With Miami Beach went Fisher's Island. Willie came along and I understand they did a swap for the Eagle.

**MS. OGG:**

Seven acres of the island for the Eagle.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

It was seven acres on Fisher's Island for the Yacht Eagle, which became Ara base and Alva base in the future. Apparently Mr. Fisher and Mr. Vanderbilt communicated a lot because Mr. Fisher's next project was to build a limited access highway. Does that sound familiar? Only he wanted to build one transcontinental. He started to build the first transcontinental motor parkway – of course, Willie built the first limited access concrete motor parkway, but Mr. Fisher started building one that was going to go across the nation. It became part of what became the national –

**MR. MALLAMO:**

The interstate highway system.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Yes, the interstate highway. Then Mr. Fisher disappeared into history.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I think they were also associated with the Indianapolis Speedway.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

That's right, and Mr. Fisher built the Indianapolis Speedway,

which is really what succeeded Willie's races. I just kind of thought it was fun to stumble upon this. I hadn't gone down that route. Now it all ties together. I guess we're looking at a lot of impact on Mr. Fisher because he did everything Willie did, only as a follow-up to what Willie did.

Today I was driving, and I was on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and all of a sudden I went through these two tunnels, the twin tunnels, and just as I'm going through the tunnels I suddenly realized as I was approaching the entrance that these are the tunnels that Willie K. I, Willie's father, partnered with Rockefeller to build, which was a branch railroad to compete with the Pennsylvania Railroad to get down to the coal mines, but they never finished the tunnels. When the Pennsylvania highway system was put in place, they took over the tunnels and finished them. Since I just went through them today, I had to tell you. That's my report. Any comments or questions?

We have not established a reason to go into executive session. Therefore, can I have a motion to adjourn?

**DR. ROGERS:**

Just a question. What has happened to our audio system?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

We are putting together a spreadsheet, Bill, in the Education Committee evaluating different systems against antenna audio. Hopefully at the next meeting we'll have that totally complete and a review will be complete.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Can we present it to the interested parties before the next meeting?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Oh, certainly. We should have it done by the next E&E meeting, which is what date? September 18. I can get the draft out before that, and we'll have that committee review it at that time.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Motion to adjourn.

**MR. DELUISE:**

Motion.

**DR. ROGERS:**

Second.

**MS. PASTORE:**

Were there any excused absences?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Yes, in fact, I wanted to add as part of that, I have been trying to set up a meeting with Ron Parr to talk to him about something. Ron has been unavailable, and his secretary did leave me a message today that he was ill and was not going to be able to make it. I got that by email, Ann Marie, and I got here very late today. I was up in Binghamton myself and was unable to check my phone messages, so can I contact you tomorrow if I have any others on my phone?

**MS. PASTORE:**

Sure.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

That's the only one that I have. I was able to check my email.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I believe the same thing is the case with Susan LeBow.

**MR. SWINSON:**

I just wanted to say this right at the beginning of the meeting, but we got started so I said I would wait until the end. I just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for the flowers that you sent to our apartment up in Manhattan. My wife and I were very, very appreciative of the gesture and the heartfelt wishes for our newborn. Thank you very much. Baby Nigel is fine. He's keeping us up all night, which is what he's supposed to be doing.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

You're quite welcome. Congratulations, again. We have a motion and a second to adjourn. **(Vote: 9/0/0/6 Absent: Mr. Olivieri, Ms. LeBow, Dr. Pecorale, Mr. Kleinberg, Ms. Fuhrmann & Mr. Parr.)**

**(Dr. Steven Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.)**

Attachments

SG:ap